

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 4-6 and 11, and cancel claims 2 and 3 as shown in the following listing of claims. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A comparator, comprising:

[[-]] a differential amplifier having differential inputs forming the comparator inputs, and a first and second amplifier output forming the comparator outputs of a first comparator stage; and

[[-]] a first differential current amplifier connected with its inputs to said amplifier outputs and connected with its output to said first amplifier output and;

[[-]] a second differential current amplifier connected with its inputs to said amplifier outputs and connected with its output to said second amplifier output;

a second comparator stage having an output amplifier whose inputs are connected to the comparator outputs of the first comparator stage and whose output forms the comparator output of said second comparator stage; and

switching means whose control input is connected to the comparator output of the second comparator stage and whose control output is connected to the first output of the differential amplifier.

2. (canceled)

3. (canceled)

4. (currently amended) The comparator according to claim 31, wherein the switching means is a transistor.

5. (currently amended) The comparator according to claim 31, wherein the switching means is connected to the output of the differential amplifier whose output signal needs longer to reach the comparator output of the second comparator stage.

6. (currently amended) The comparator according to claim 31, wherein the switching means is in series connected to a current mirror transistor said current mirror transistor being provided to adjust a predetermined current flowing through said switching means.

7. (previously presented) The comparator according to claim 1, wherein the differential amplifier comprises a first and a second input transistor whose control outputs are connected to an auxiliary current source.

8. (previously presented) The comparator according to claim 7, wherein the auxiliary current source is connected via a current mirror to the input transistors.

9. (previously presented) The comparator according to claim 8, wherein the current mirror is connected via a further current mirror to the input transistors.

10. (previously presented) The comparator according to claim 9, wherein the auxiliary current source is connectable via a switching transistor to the current mirror.

11. (currently amended) The comparator according to claim 10, wherein the switching transistor is provided to be switched ~~on~~off, when the supply voltage falls under a certain reference voltage.